

August 22

Ecclesiasticus 8:5-7

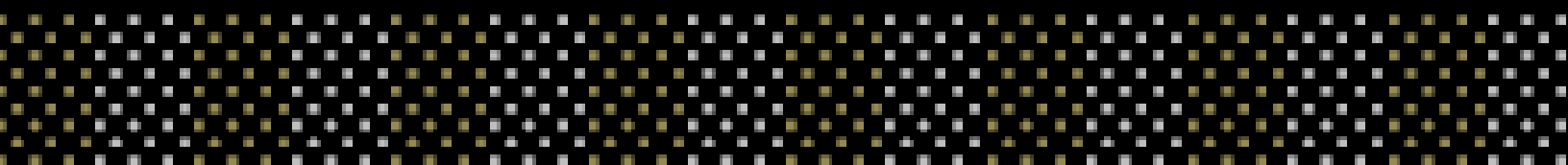
Commonalities



**⁵ Reproach not a man
that turneth from sin,
but remember that
we are all worthy of
punishment.**

**⁶ Dishonor not a man
in his old age: for
even some of us
wax old.**

**⁷ Rejoice not over
thy greatest enemy
being dead, but
remember that
we die all.**



This shows similarities
in humankind and
gives reasons for not
picking at (ridiculing
or mocking) each other.

1) Don't criticize a
person because they
have stopped sinning.

I once heard a man
mock people who turn
from sin when they
became older. "Yeah",

the man said,
“they’ve suddenly
become so holy now
that they’re too old to
drink and party”.

Regardless to the age
of a person, if he or
she grows up mentally
and stops doing
anything that’s
harmful to himself
or herself, physically

or spiritually, it's a good thing! Plus, as this passage warns, we're all "worthy of punishment".

None of us can really afford to look down our noses at others.

2) Don't pick on old folks. I used to hear, "you'll get old too, if you live long

enough”. It’s a golden rule practice that you treat others the way you’d want to be treated. Would you like to be disrespected when you’re whatever is considered “old”?

3) Don’t waste your energy being glad that even your worst enemy is dead. The

fact is that we
all die.

We, all humans,
would benefit by
recognizing, and
even appreciating,
our commonalities.
Doing so makes for
kindness and just
makes good
sense.